



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2022

pond (Code 378)

A pond is a water impoundment made by constructing an embankment, by excavating a dugout, or by a combination of both.

Practice Information

NRCS defines ponds constructed by the first method as embankment ponds, and those constructed by the second method as excavated ponds.



The purpose of a of pond is to store water for livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, fire control, erosion control, flow detention, and other uses such as improving water quality .

The Pond practice standard applies where failure of the embankment and resulting release of water will not result in loss of life, damage to homes, commercial buildings, main highways, railroads, or interruption of public utilities; the product of the storage (acre/feet) times the effective height of the dam is less than 3,000 and the effective height of the dam is 35 feet or less.

The site must be such that runoff from the design storm can pass through a natural or constructed spillway at a safe velocity. The drainage area must be protected from erosion that would significantly reduce the expected life of the structure and be large enough so that surface runoff and groundwater flow will normally maintain an adequate supply of water in the pond. The water quality must be suitable for the intended use of the water. The topography and soil must be suitable for the pond.

The pond will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

A Pond (378) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Prescribed Grazing (528), Fence (382), Access Control (472), and Critical Area Planting (342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office,